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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,946	03/26/2002	Thomas Riermeier	217638US0PCT	3953
22850	7590	03/24/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			SAEED, KAMAL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,946

Applicant(s)

RIERMEIER ET AL.

Examiner

Kamal A Saeed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-21(in part), are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. The withdrawn subject matter is patentably distinct from the elected subject matter as it differs in structure and element and would require separate search considerations. In addition, a reference, which anticipates one group, would not render obvious the other.

Priority

This Application is a 371 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/06056, filed on June 29, 2000, which claims the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, German Application No. 19933611.3, filed July 17, 1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

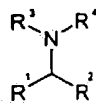
Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements, filed on January 15, 2002 have been considered. Please refer to Applicant's a copy of the 1449 submitted herewith.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 (in part), as previously stated, are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. The withdrawn subject matter is patentably distinct from the elected subject matter as it differs in structure and element and would require separate search considerations. In addition, a reference, which anticipates one group, would not render obvious the other.

The scope of the invention of the elected subject matter has been modified as follows:

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Process of preparing compounds of formula II, depicted in claim 1, wherein:

R^1 - R^4 are as defined that they do not include any heterocyclic groups.

Response to Remarks/Arguments

Applicants argue that restriction requirement be withdrawn because there is a technical feature in the claimed invention, namely the discovery that reacting ketones with amines in the presence of hydrogen and homogeneously soluble catalyst to prepare substituted amines. (see remarks page 4, lines 5-9). This argument is not found persuasive because processes are defined by the product they make. If the process is directed for preparing amines that are structurally different then a different reaction condition could be involved. The special technical feature is based on the compound that is produced and not the process involved in making the product. The subject matter which are withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected subject differ materially in structure and composition and have been restricted properly a reference which anticipated but the elected subject matter would not even render obvious the withdrawn subject matter and the fields of search are not co-extensive. Therefore the restriction requirement of the previous office action is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by over Marco et al, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, vol. 81, pages 411-414. Applicants teach a process of preparing amines by homogenously catalyzed reductive amination using specific catalysts, which contain at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Rh, Ru, Ir, Pd, Pt, Co and Ni and one or more monodentate or bidentate ligands. Marco et al teach a process of reductive amination of aldehydes or ketones in the presence of amines and homogeneous catalyst (see table 1, page 412.

Objections

Claims 2-21 are objected to for containing non-elected subject matter. The claims are also objected to for depending in a rejected base claim. The claims must be amended to exclude non-elected subject matter.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamal Saced whose telephone number is (571) 272-0705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699.

Communication via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mckane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet

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e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2286.

Kamal Saeed
Kamal Saeed, Ph.D
Patent Examiner AI 1626
03/21/04